

Application No. 09/974,049
Amendment dated November 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 23, 2003

Attorney Docket: 0051-0165P
Art Unit: 3636
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REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-17 and 19-21 are currently being prosecuted. Independent claims 1, 6 and 19 are amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal by placing the claims in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicants did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 6-17 to be allowed.

As the Examiner will note, claims 1 and 19 are amended herein to recite novel combinations of elements not taught or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims, namely, claims 1-17 and 19-21, are now in condition for allowance.

Drawings

The Examiner has approved the formal drawings submitted on April 11, 2003 in which Figs. 11A and 11 B were labeled as "Prior Art." All of the drawings are now believed to comply with the rules of the USPTO.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, claim 19 is amended herein to address the issue pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 19 now complies with the provisions of 35 USC §112.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Smith, U.S. 2,308,315. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, claim 1 is amended herein to recite a strap passing under a central portion of the seat bottom and extending between a front end and a back end of the seat bottom and provided at a back end with an anchoring member to be inserted into the seat of a vehicle; wherein a strap tightening device capable of engaging the seat bottom is slidably connected to a front part of the strap. Full support for the presently claimed features can be seen in Figs. 1 and 2.

By contrast, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of USP 2,308,315, the strap 7 is merely attached to outer sides 1 of the seat 3, rather than a strap passing under a central portion of the seat bottom as set forth in claim 1 of the present invention.

Moreover, USP 2,308,315 merely discloses a buckle 11, rather than a strap tightening device capable of engaging the seat bottom that is slidably connected to a front part of the strap as set forth in claim 1 of the present invention.

Therefore it is respectfully submitted that the Smith patent does not disclose the combination of features as set forth in the claim 1.

Amendments to Independent Claim 19

Independent claim 19 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a child car seat wherein the seat bottom is provided with a first projection facing inwardly toward the seat back, and the seat back is provided with a second projection facing outwardly

toward the seat bottom, the second projection capable of engaging the first projection to determine a limit of angle between the seat bottom and the seat back, and the first and second projections are so constructed that when the seat back is turned relative to the seat bottom, the second projection is first engaged with the first projection on one side of the first projection, and then climbs over the first projection to a position on an opposite side of the first projection.

It is respectfully submitted that the Smith patent does not disclose the combination of features as set forth in claim 19. In the Smith patent, projections 23 do not face inwardly toward the seat back 18, as set forth in claim 19 of the present invention.

Therefore, claim 19 of the present application is not anticipated by the disclosure set forth in the Smith patent.

Amendments to Independent Claim 6

The Examiner will note that allowed claim 6 is amended herein merely to correct a typographical error.

All claims of the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patent relied on by the Examiner.

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Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

A prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

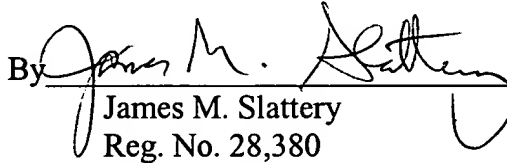
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380

JMS/CTT:jls:ndb

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000